

Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

Police Liaison

April 2000

201.04C

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Purpose

Emergency Response situations routinely involve interaction between the Salt River Police Department and Salt River Fire personnel. In complex situations, however, there is a need for Command level interaction between the two departments. Command should assign a Police Liaison to coordinate functions in this area. The Police Liaison Officer will deal with all law enforcement agencies at the scene of the incident.

At major incidents a Police supervisor will be requested to report to the Fire Command Post, this should be requested through Alarm. The Police Supervisor should be requested to stay at the Command Post with the assigned Liaison Officer. A Fire Liaison Officer may also be assigned to the Police Command Post.

The Police Liaison will coordinate all activities requiring coordination between the departments, including:

- Traffic control
- Crowd control - establishment of fire line perimeters
- Media access
- Evacuation - hazardous materials, etc.
- Fatalities
- Crime scenes - (bombings, etc.)
- Persons interfering with Fire Department operations

The assigned Liaison Officer will be responsible for determining the specific needs of each situation and communicate them to the Police Supervisor. The Liaison Officer and Police Supervisor should remain at the Command post to facilitate continuing communications.

Some situations are naturally more of a Police responsibility than a Fire responsibility. In these situations the Police Liaison Officer should report to the Police Command Post to coordinate requests for assistance from the Police Department to the Fire Department. At crime scenes the Fire Department often operates in a supporting role to the Police Department, providing specialized equipment or expertise. All personnel must be aware of the Police Department's jurisdiction.

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When responding to assist the Police Department with a major incident, the first unit should proceed to the Police Command Post to establish Liaison - all other units will stage.

Dead bodies are a responsibility of the Police Department, delegated by the Medical Examiner.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Alarm will automatically notify the Police Department of the need for traffic control at any working fire. When the need for traffic control is urgent or complex, this should be reported to Alarm to be relayed to the Police dispatcher. Time will be saved if specific traffic control locations are relayed through Alarm (Example: "Have P.D. close McDowell from Longmore to Dobson").

When special Traffic Control measures are needed, such as with hazardous materials incidents, the basic requirements may be relayed through Alarm with a request for a Police Supervisor at the Command Post.

CROWD CONTROL

The Police Department will enforce a Fire Line as identified by the Fire Department. It is the responsibility of the Police Department to keep unauthorized persons outside this Fire Line.

Authorized personnel inside this Fire Line are the responsibility of the Fire Department, including news media, utility personnel, etc. Command must identify the area to be controlled to the Police Department, keeping in mind the possible dangers of the situation and the area needed for operations. The Police Liaison Officer is responsible for coordinating the location and establishment of the Fire Line with the Police Department and directing the work of Fire Department personnel assigned to place FIRE LINE tape.

Fire and Police Liaison Officers should coordinate access for the media and provide a safe assembly area for reporting and interviews with PIO's.

EVACUATION

At incidents involving exposure of large numbers of citizens to some danger, such as hazardous materials incidents, it may become necessary to use Police Officers to effect and maintain evacuation of an area. In these cases it is essential that a Police Liaison Officer and a Police

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Supervisor work together to coordinate resource requirements and assignments, establish perimeters and exchange information.

Accurate and timely information must be shared by both departments to minimize risks to personnel and the public.

PERSONS INTERFERING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

When Fire Department personnel encounter interference from anyone at the scene of an incident, a specific request shall be made to the Police Department identifying the type of problem encountered and the desired action. In such circumstances a Police Liaison Officer shall be assigned to work with the Police Supervisor.

If the situation reaches a point where Fire Department personnel are physically endangered by an unstable situation, Fire Department units will withdraw until the Police Department can stabilize the situation. The Police Liaison Officer will work with the Police Supervisor in coordinating the re-entry of units into such areas. Unstable civil situations are a Police responsibility and Fire Department personnel and equipment will not be used in violent crowd control situations except in self-defense.

Following a fire for which no responsible party is available, it may become necessary to leave the premises or valuable property in the possession of the Police Department. At major incidents, the Police Liaison Officer will handle the details of this transfer of responsibility with the Police Supervisor.